



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Office of Grants and Research

Executive Office of Public Safety and Security Newsletter

September 2009

The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) is committed to keeping the people of Massachusetts informed about critical homeland security, emergency management, personal safety, and criminal justice issues. The EOPSS newsletter is published monthly for the purpose of sharing current information on events, publications, and funding opportunities among public safety professionals.

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Research and Publications

2009 Massachusetts Safety Belt Usage Observation Study

This report, prepared for the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Highway Safety Division (EOPSS-HSD) by the University of Massachusetts Traffic Safety Research Program, presents the results of the 2009 safety belt observation study conducted in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This observational study was conducted as a component of an effort to evaluate safety belt usage in the Commonwealth as directed by EOPSS-HSD. The reported safety belt usage in Massachusetts, a secondary safety belt law state, has consistently had an observed usage rate lower than the national average.

[Access full text at: www.mass.gov/eops](http://www.mass.gov/eops) (click on Publications and Reports).

Violent Crime in Massachusetts

The Research and Policy Analysis Division of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) recently released this report, as part of the Crime Policy Brief Series, which provides an overview of violent crime around the Commonwealth. Using Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) data collected through the Massachusetts State Police Crime Reporting Unit from 1980 through 2008, the purpose of Crime Policy Brief Series is to increase knowledge about crime in Massachusetts through improved dissemination of crime data. For the purposes of this report, violent crime includes murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

[Access full text at: www.mass.gov/eops](http://www.mass.gov/eops) (click on Publications and Reports).

Property Crime in Massachusetts

The Research and Policy Analysis Division of EOPSS recently released this report, as part of the Crime Policy Brief Series, which provides an overview of property crime around the Commonwealth. Using UCR data collected through the Massachusetts State Police Crime Reporting Unit from 1980 through 2008, the purpose of the series is to increase knowledge about crime in Massachusetts through improved dissemination of crime data. For the purposes of this report, property crime includes burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft

[Access full text at: www.mass.gov/eops](http://www.mass.gov/eops) (click on Publications and Reports).

Annual Electronic Weapons Use Analysis: A Summary of Electronic Weapons Use in Massachusetts

The Research and Policy Analysis Division of EOPSS recently released this report which summarizes electronic weapons data collected through quarterly reports from police departments previously approved for electronic weapons use by EOPSS. At the close of Federal Fiscal Year 2008 (September 30, 2008), a total of 44 law enforcement agencies had been approved by EOPSS to use electronic weapons. The report includes data on the number of times the electronic weapon was fired and the identifying characteristics of the individual(s) fired upon (including race and gender).

[Access full text at: www.mass.gov/eops](http://www.mass.gov/eops) (click on Publications and Reports).

Compendium of Research on Violence Against Women, 1993-Present

Published by the National Institute of Justice, this frequently updated compendium lists and describes all projects funded by the National Institute of Justice's Violence Against Women and Family Violence Program.

[Access full text at: http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/223572.pdf](http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/223572.pdf).

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Planning: Guidelines for Community Corrections

Sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, this guide presents information gathered from a number of sources on guidelines to developing preparedness and response plans for pandemic flu and other crises. The guidelines are organized into the following sections: pandemic planning and decision-making; prevention and detection; human resources; communication; and offender supervision strategies.

Access full text at: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/pdf/APPA_Pandemic_Planning_Community_Corrections.pdf.

Conducted Energy Devices: Use in a Custodial Setting

This report, a collaborative study by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Police Executive Research Forum, and the National Sheriffs' Association, provides results from a survey on sheriffs' use of Conducted Energy Devices (CED), and presents policies and general guidelines on the use of CEDs and other electronic devices in custodial settings. The guidelines are specific to the use of CEDs in police patrol settings; they highlight the potential use of CEDs as a new type of less-lethal force as well as offer suggestions on how to prevent misuse or excessive use.

Access full text at: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/pdf/PERFNSA_CED.pdf.

Communication and Public Health Emergencies: A Guide for Law Enforcement

Sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Police Executive Research Forum, this guide identifies factors that law enforcement executives should consider when developing or enhancing public health communication plans, including both internal and external communications. This report is one of three in a series on law enforcement responses to public health emergencies.

Access full text at: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/pdf/PERF_Emer_Comm.pdf.

An Examination of Trends in Illicit Drug Use Among Adults Aged 50 to 59 in the United States

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration recently released this report which provides an overview of the trends, patterns, and characteristics of illicit drug use among individuals age 50 to 59 in the United States. Data analyzed in the report were collected from approximately 51,000 participants from four 5-year birth cohorts, as well as an additional 16,656 individuals who participated in the 2002 to 2007 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health.

Access full text at: http://oas.samhsa.gov/2k9/OlderAdults/OAS_data_review_OlderAdults.pdf.

National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse XIV: Teens and Parents

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse recently published this report which presents the results of a survey designed to gauge the attitudes of teens and the effects of outside influences, such as parents. The telephone survey was given to 1,000 U.S. teenagers (ages 12 to 17) between March and April 2009; an additional 452 parents were interviewed separately. The goal of the survey is to highlight what factors contribute to teen risk of smoking, drinking, and using illicit substances.

Access full text at: <http://www.casacolumbia.org/absolutenm/articlefiles/380-2009%20Teen%20Survey%20Report.pdf>.

Conferences and Trainings

15th Annual Public Education Conference

September 23-24, 2009 in Devens, MA

Sponsored by the Department of Fire Services and the Massachusetts Public Fire & Life Safety Education Task Force, this conference boasts a line-up of workshops designed to appeal to both teachers and firefighter-educators. The keynote speaker will be Fresno CA Fire Chief Randy R. Bruegman, an author and lecturer on leadership and managing change in the fire service. Registration deadline is September 8, 2009.

For more information: www.mass.gov/dfs and click "What's New".

Annual Child Passenger Safety Conference (CPS)

September 28, 2009 in Leominster, MA

Hosted by the Massachusetts Highway Safety Division, this conference brings together technicians, instructors, injury prevention specialists and CPS advocates. The conference is a great way to get the latest information on many CPS topics, as well as obtain continuing education units to maintain CPS certification.

For more information please contact the program administrators at cps@fisher.edu or 978-877-6002.

Identifying and Responding to Elder Abuse

September 29-30, 2009 in Providence, RI

Sponsored by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center, the goal of this training is to teach participants how to identify, respond to, and prevent elder abuse. Topics covered include: types of elder abuse; settings where abuse may be found; characteristics of perpetrators; prevalence of abuse; and the role of victim service professionals and allied professionals as interventionists.

For more information: <http://www.seiservices.com/OVCTTAC2009/ElderAbuse.asp>.

Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) 28th Annual Conference

September 30-October 03, 2009 in Dallas, TX

Sponsored by the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers, this conference offers symposia, workshop presentations, poster sessions, discussion groups, and advanced clinics which will highlight new developments in victim and perpetrator research and treatment. ATSA will also offer a selection of intensive half and/or full day Pre-Conference Clinics, focusing on extensive training and skills improvement, in addition to the conference schedule.

For more information: <http://www.atsa.com/conf.html>.

116th Annual IACP Conference and Exposition

October 3-7, 2009 in Denver, CO

Sponsored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, this conference highlights current issues, trends, and lessons learned in the field of law enforcement. Topics include, but are not limited to, strategies for leading change in police culture, less than lethal issues, online learning and operational support, public law enforcement and private security collaboration, violent crime, use of force issues, training, and case studies.

For more information: <http://www.theiacpconference.org/index.cfm>.

Building a United Response: Services for Immigrant Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence
October 20, 2009 in Boston, MA

Sponsored by the Multicultural Immigrant Coalition Against Violence (MICAV), this training will focus on effective responses to barriers facing immigrant survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The information provided will include remarks from an immigrant survivor of domestic violence; Richard Chacon, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants; and a MICAV member panel presenting on best practices for collaborating amongst domestic violence, housing, and legal advocates.

For more information: contact Katia Santiago-Taylor, Victim Services Coordinator at MOVA, at Katia.Santiago-Taylor@state.ma.us.

BJS/JRSA 2009 National Conference
October 22-23 in St. Louis, MO

Sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Justice Research and Statistics Association, this conference will focus on the latest in data and research, including discussions on ways to improve the quality of criminal justice data and research, and how to promote the use of statistics and research to inform policy development. Panel topics include: community corrections, domestic violence, mentally ill offenders, reentry, recidivism, sentencing, stalking and sexual assault, substance abuse, tribal data, and victimization. The conference will also feature a discussion of how states use risk/needs assessment instruments to manage corrections populations and examine issues like prison overcrowding, diversion, alternative sanctions, and sentencing practices.

For more information: <http://www.jrsa.org/events/conference/index.html>.

News

The following are excerpts from newspaper articles regarding public safety topics.

Stimulus Aid is Earmarked for Firefighting
The Boston Globe, August 7, 2009

Governor Deval Patrick announced that he will direct \$20 million in federal stimulus money to fire departments across Massachusetts to rehire laid-off firefighters and lessen the impact of other budget cuts, reports *The Boston Globe*. This latest cash infusion, which Patrick's administration will distribute through a competitive grant process, brings the total federal recovery funds earmarked for local public safety to \$71 million, according to the governor's office.

Access full text at: http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/08/07/20_million_from_stimulus_going_to_mass_fire_departments/.

Troopers ask Patrick for audit of State Police
The Boston Globe, August 9, 2009

The State Police union has urged Governor Deval Patrick to order an independent audit of the state police agency to investigate its complaint that the force is top heavy, with too many highly paid superior officers and not enough troopers, reports *The Boston Globe*. It is estimated that the state could save \$1 million to \$7 million annually through "the reduction of patronage ranks, elimination of redundant positions, or the downgrading of certain positions." The State Police narrowly averted massive layoffs last month and had to scrap plans to add more troopers this year because of budget cuts. The department, which presently has 2,278 sworn officers, has not hired any new recruits in three years.

Access full text at: http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/08/09/state_police_union_urges_audit_of_agency/.

Boston FBI Chief Pushes Assault Rifles for Police

***The Boston Herald*, August 18, 2009**

According to *The Boston Herald*, an FBI official says Boston police officers should be armed with assault rifles to make the city more prepared for a terrorist attack. In May, Boston Mayor Tom Menino criticized a proposal to arm up to 200 officers with M-16s that the police department had ordered from the U.S. military. Menino said only specially trained units should have the guns. Warren Bamford, the special agent in charge of the FBI in Boston, said he believes more officers should have access to the guns in the event Boston becomes the target of a terrorist attack like the one that killed 166 people in Mumbai, India in November.

Access full text at: http://www.bostonherald.com/news/politics/view/20090818boston_fbi_chief_pushes_assault_rifles_for_police/.

Water Safety Event Launches Safety Campaign

***The Republican*, August 21, 2009**

Using the scene of a recent drowning as a backdrop, a coalition of federal, state and business officials urged people to always play it safe when in or on the water, reports *The Republican*. The event launched a water safety campaign called "Wear It Massachusetts" sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Police and Brookfield Renewable Power, a hydroelectric company with facilities in Rowe and Florida. The campaign, part of a national campaign sponsored by the Safe Boating Council, promotes the use of approved life jackets.

Access full text at: http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2009/08/water_safety_event_launches_sa.html?category=Franklin%20County.

Gaming Options Gather Steam

***The Boston Globe*, August 24, 2009**

According to *The Boston Globe*, State lawmakers are meeting behind closed doors to weigh a wide variety of options for expanded gambling. With gaming back atop the agenda this fall on Beacon Hill, there's a flurry of activity among casino developers, landowners, politicians, and lobbyists, all of whom are looking ahead to what is likely to be the most friendly climate to date toward bringing casinos, and possibly slot machines, to Massachusetts. Top lawmakers have yet to set dates for hearings, and they are mum on what form the debate may take.

Access full text at: http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2009/08/24/mass_legislators_expected_to_be_receptive_to_gambling_proposals_this_fall/.

Announcement

Child Passenger Safety Week

September 12-18 is National Child Passenger Safety Week. The EOPSS Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Program, in partnership with groups across the state, is arranging over a dozen checkup events where parents can have their child seats inspected and installed by nationally certified technicians. The CPS Program is a statewide initiative made possible by federal grant funding. CPS aims to keep kids safe by educating parents and caregivers on the proper selection and use of child safety seats to ensure they have chosen the correct child safety or booster seat, that it is installed correctly, and that it's used the same way each and every time they travel in their vehicle.

To find a checkup event near you: www.mass.gov/childsafetyseats or call the Child Passenger Safety Hotline at 1-877-392-5956.

Recovery Act: STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program

On March 24, 2009, the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security submitted an application to the U.S. Department of Justice on behalf of the Commonwealth. Once the award is secured, EOPSS will make funding available in the form of grants. EOPSS will announce relevant details in the weeks to come. Please continue to monitor the EOPSS website for information and announcements.

Contact Information

We welcome and encourage your comments. Please email us at: EOPS.newsletter@state.ma.us

Subscription details:

To subscribe to this newsletter send an email to: join-eopsnewsletter@listserv.state.ma.us

To unsubscribe to this newsletter send an email to: leave-eopsnewsletter@listserv.state.ma.us

For additional information on EOPSS' grant programs or agencies please visit: www.mass.gov/eops